SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 13 of the specification with the following.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In ~~one embodiment, a special feature is offered by~~ a <u>virtual</u> spinning reels type video slot machine, ~~where virtual reels displayed on a video screen appear to rotate and are stopped to reveal an array of symbols. One~~ <u>one</u> or more of the possible symbols are special symbols. Examples of special symbols are wild cards and multipliers. If the special symbol cannot be utilized in the current game to grant an award to the player, the special symbol is carried over into the next game. When the player spins the reels for the next game, the special symbol(s) moves (e.g., randomly) to any position in the array as the reels appear to spin. When the reels stop, the special symbol(s) carried over from the previous game is applied to the current game to grant an award to the player. In another embodiment, special symbols are not extinguished after they are used, but may continue for any selected number of games.